



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

2 OCTOBER 2020

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) San Francisco – Malicious Email Campaign Mimics Campaign Pitches for Volunteers

(U) Tens of thousands of emails sent yesterday that asked recipients to volunteer for the Democratic Party ahead of the November US election actually came from email scammers and contained malicious software, according to researchers at cybersecurity firm Proofpoint. The emails borrow language from the website of the Democratic National Committee and sought to leverage interest in the US presidential election following the first televised debate Tuesday between Republican President Donald Trump and Democratic contender Joe Biden, according to a statement from the private cybersecurity firm. The Word document attachment to the spam e-mail contains miniature programs known as macros that, if enabled by the recipient, install a password-stealing program known as Emotet.

SOURCE: 1 October 2020, [Reuters](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – DOJ Repatriates Dozens of ISIS Fighters to US

(U) Washington – The US Justice Department said yesterday that it repatriated 27 Americans who traveled to Syria and Iraq to fight for the Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS), and urged other nations to do the same. A day after filing charges against a Trinidadian-American father and son who enlisted in ISIS in 2015, the department said it had brought criminal terrorism support cases against some of those returning Americans. The 27 represent only a portion of the hundreds of Americans and thousands of citizens of other countries who, often with their families, enlisted in ISIS as it undertook a bloody campaign to establish its "caliphate" across Syria and Iraq six-years ago.

SOURCE: 1 October 2020, [Associated Foreign Press](#)

(U) Hawaii – Man Charged with Possessing Chemical Weapon and Planning to Destroy Building

(U) Honolulu – A 20-year-old Hawaii man was arrested for allegedly creating chemical and explosive weapons in a plot to destroy residential and commercial targets on Oahu. Ethan Sandomire, of Honolulu, was indicted by a federal grand jury on Wednesday on charges of possessing and attempting to possess the chlorine-gas weapons and an unregistered destructive device. Sandomire planned to destroy a "centrally located" 40-storey apartment building with about 450 residential units, several commercial units and a multi-level grocery store, according to the indictment.

SOURCE: 1 October 2020, [The Independent](#)

(U) Michigan – Two Charged over Voter Suppression Scheme

(U) Lansing – Two men were charged yesterday with a series of felonies in connection with a robocall scheme that Michigan's attorney general said was part of a broad effort intended to intimidate minority voters from casting mail-in ballots. Jack Burkman and Jacob Wohl, made automated calls to around 12,000 Michigan residents in August, warning them that their personal information from mail-in ballots could be used to execute outstanding arrest warrants or by credit card companies to collect unpaid debts, authorities said. Many of the residents who were targeted live in Detroit and other cities, said Dana Nessel, Michigan's attorney general.

SOURCE: 1 October 2020, [The New York Times](#)

UNCLASSIFIED

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Mexico – Official: Mexican Prison Was Controlled by Jalisco Cartel

(U) Mexico City – Mexico's top security official announced yesterday what many Mexicans had suspected, the Jalisco drug cartel had long controlled the infamous “Puente Grande” federal prison where convicted drug lord Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzmán staged his first escape in 2001. The prison had become known for such lax standards that it earned the nickname “Puerta Grande,” or “Big Door.” On Monday, the federal Public Safety Department announced it was closing the prison but did not give a specific reason, other than saying it was part of a modernization effort to ensure prisoners’ rights and rehabilitation, and a government cost-cutting campaign.

SOURCE: 1 October 2020, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Switzerland – Four with Suspected Ties to ISIS and Al-Qa’ida Arrested

(U) Fribourg – Authorities in Switzerland say they have arrested four people on suspicion of having ties to ISIS and al-Qa’ida. The federal prosecutor's office said police searched three houses in the western canton (state) of Fribourg today as part of two criminal investigations into alleged extremist activity. The suspects are alleged to have violated Swiss law banning involvement with al-Qa’ida, ISIS and related organizations. Prosecutors said the four people detained are also suspected of having “supported or participated in a criminal organization.”

SOURCE: 2 October 2020, [Spectrum News 1](#)

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